

#### 48. A MANDAN WINTER COUNT <sup>145</sup>

Given by Foolish Woman at Independence, July 11, 1929,  
to explain the pictured events recorded in his notebook.

1835

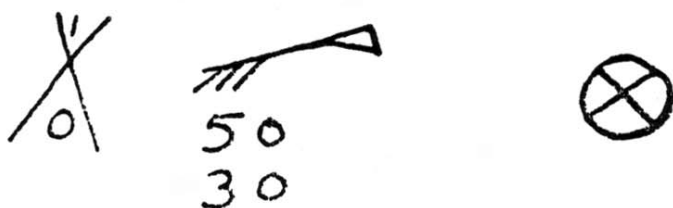
Shooting stars fell during the summer. Lance Owner and his party of Sioux were killed. Four women born.



1836

The next winter 50 tipi of the Sioux destroyed and the gun indicates a fight. The Sioux were coming through the Mandan and Gros Ventre territory. They were warned off. They said that the Gros Ventre looked like calves but they were bulls, so the Mandan destroyed fifty of their tipi.

In the summer, 30 Mandan went on a war party, Red Cow's younger uncle among them (Red Cow was Arthur Mandan's grandfather), and never came back.



1837

At the time that the Mandans were killed there were three Sioux in the Mandan camp, two of them brothers. One brother went with the war party. His uncle among the Sioux recognized him and said, "Say, brother, if you want to save yourself come with us," but the Sioux refused to desert his friends. He had

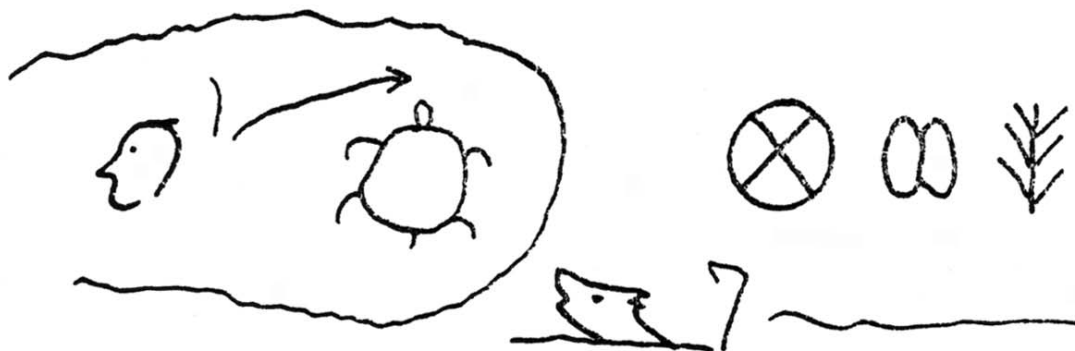
sweethearts among the Mandan who would have laughed at him if he had been a coward. So he was killed among them. In the fall of the year the Mandan wanted revenge. They used the two Sioux as decoy to coax the Sioux into the village, saying that the Mandan wanted to make a treaty of peace with them. A large party came, but the police officers succeeded in driving back to the Sioux all but seven, among them Four Hand. At the Mandan camp Red Cow loaded his gun with seven bullets and when he came to the Sioux he asked which was Four Hand. They pointed, and he shot him in the back. The bullet could be heard going through the air with a whistling sound. The Mandan and Gros Ventre killed the rest and cut off their hands.

Next summer there was small-pox. (That summer Foolish Woman's father was born, also an old woman named Turtle Woman who is still living. She is 92 years old this summer.)



1838

That winter the camp was down in old Cold Harbor where there is a creek known by Indians as Mussel Shell creek. A man by the name of Turtle did his first deed (of valor) by striking an enemy. A man by the name of Four Bears killed seven Sioux and brought one white horse back that same winter.



1839

In the spring they crossed to the south side of the river, the band split up, and part camped where they had crossed and the other half went up the Yellowstone and made camp about Rosebud creek, in the gumbo tree timber.



1840 ?

The following summer they returned to the original creek and wintered there again for the second time.

1841 ?

The next summer an old lady by the name of Brown-bird-woman — Ma-hi-di-wit — was born and is still alive. . . .



1842

Camped a second winter in the same camp. An Assiniboine chief by the name of Sitting Dog came to that village.



1843

The third winter camped in the same place. Black Shield, a Gros Ventre chief appointed this camp. He was also known as Many Buffalo. One evening he announced that every dog must be muzzled and he was going to beat his drum. He beat the drum

and sang his medicine song and a blizzard came and buffalo in great numbers sought protection in the timber.

During the summer, a woman by the name of Lead Woman was born who is alive today.



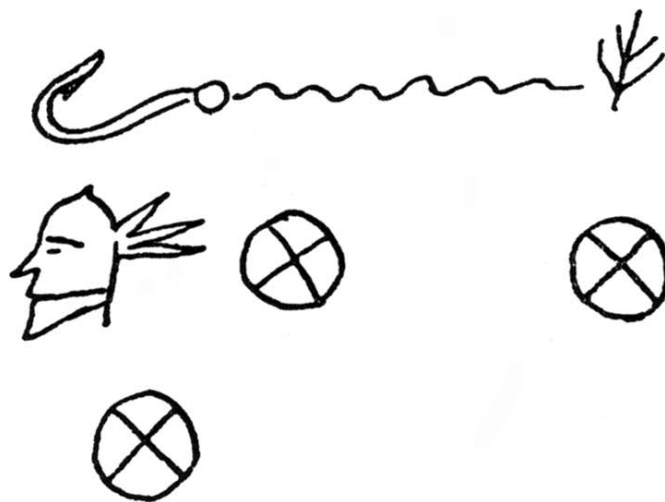
1844

A man by the name of Hand was chief of the village and appointed the camp.



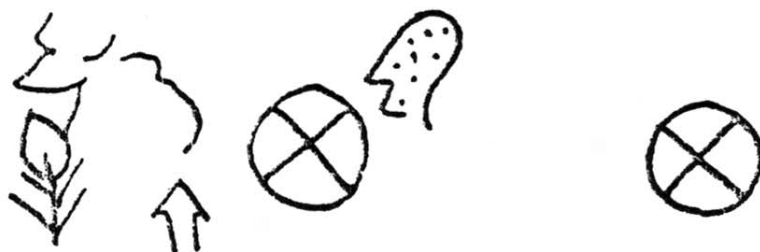
1845 ?

The summer following, Fish-hook village was established by a group of officers called Black-mouths (Pretty fierce too!—more severe than any policeman.) Mrs. White-duck's father, Poor Wolf, was one of the Blackmouths at that time.



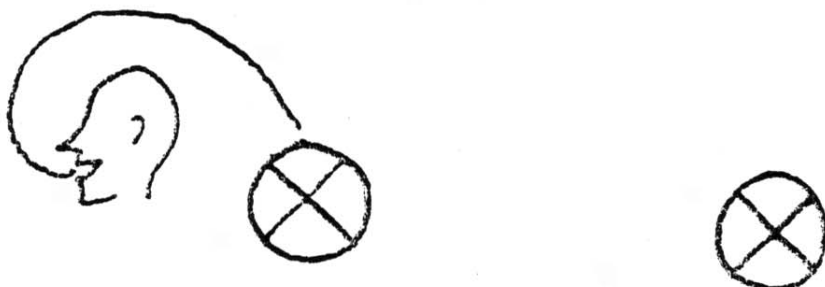
1846

A man named One Bull located the winter camp and he took the same site for the village. That winter there was chicken pox.



1847

A man named A-wa-tis (This-river-here) named Fish-hook village again as the winter camp.



1848

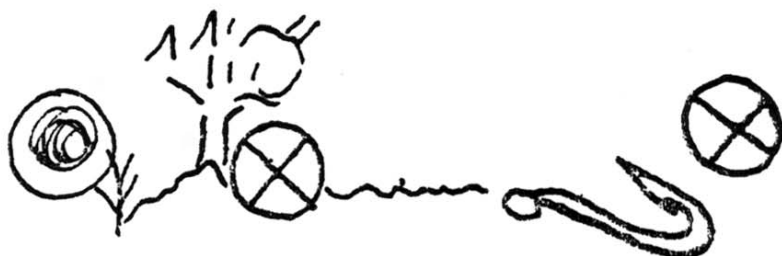
Next winter Man-with-long-hair established winter camp in the same place. He is said to have been quite an orator. You will find his oration in Washington yet. Many buffalo again,—they came right into the village.

That summer Foolish Woman's grandfather was shot in the head during a battle. The skull used to be lying right there on the battle-field.



1849

A Gros Ventre named Black Shield established winter camp in a place opposite Elbowood called by the Mandan "Dark Trees," by the Gros Ventre "Shaggy Trees."



1850

The following winter a Gros Ventre named Crying Dog established winter quarters this side of Old-Fish-hook village where the timber narrows out in the center, hence called by the Gros Ventre *Wi-da-ci-ki-bis* or "Timber-narrows out." East of Elbowood rises a hill called "Looks-like-a-Lodge" which acts as a break-wind in a severe storm. Here the people attacked the Sioux, chased them to the river and slaughtered them, swimming after and butchering them in the river.



1851

During this winter a Sioux Indian named Packs Eagle came to Fish-hook village to make a treaty.

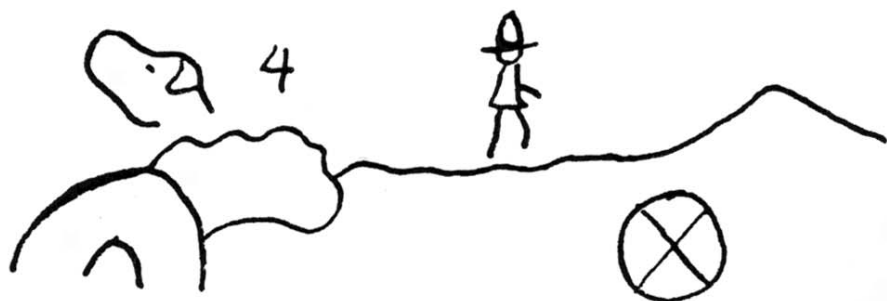
In the summer the president called a conference at Fort Laramie. Boundary lines of several tribes were established, including those of the Gros Ventre who acted also as spokesmen for the Mandan. Four Bears was the Gros Ventre who acted as spokesman, Flying Eagle was the Mandan representative. This treaty had for its purpose the establishing of peace among the Indians.

When the lines were fixed the United States government by executive order took away from the Indians approximately 11,000,000 acres of land without any compensation. The Mandan and Gros Ventre are suing the government today for these 11,000,000 acres.<sup>146</sup>



1852

When Four Bears came back, dwellings had been made in the timber west of Fish-hook Village and these were so old and mouldy that they stunk, hence the winter-camp was known as Village-that-stinks.



1853

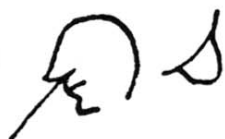
The following winter they were going to camp again in this timber but they found that when the river rose it had left a thick sediment in the lodges and the people had to rake it out with hoes before occupying their dwellings. So the place was known this second time as "Digging-the-mud-out camp."



1854

Again wintered in the same place. The man who appointed the camp was called Snod (nose-phlegm) or Edge-of-a-rock. He

told the people to look around for a buffalo horn to use in the ceremonial that he performed for the welfare of the village.



1855

The leader was a man named Raven Pouch. He established winter quarters at Sully's lake. He was a friend of Poor Wolf and chief with him over the Gros Ventre.



1856

Black Shield established another winter camp on Big Bend up here on the Missouri. They called it Wash-out-with-no-road, *A-wa-noksoki-a-ri-neshash* (ground-chop-open-road-no) because it was impossible to cut a road.



1857

Another winter village established at the Blue Buttes near the river. This village is known as Concave-back village because a Sioux horse thief who came one moonlight night to steal horses was killed and dragged to the outskirts of the village and laid on his back over a log where he froze so stiff that when in the morning they laid him on his stomach his feet and head stuck in the air. They had measles or chicken pox that winter.





1858

A man by the name of Wears-berries-around-his-neck established winter quarters. Five Sioux were killed that winter.

The next summer, right across from Fish-hook village, nine Santee Indians were killed.



man 5



9 man

1859

The following winter a man named Red Pail established winter quarters in the timber across from Independence.

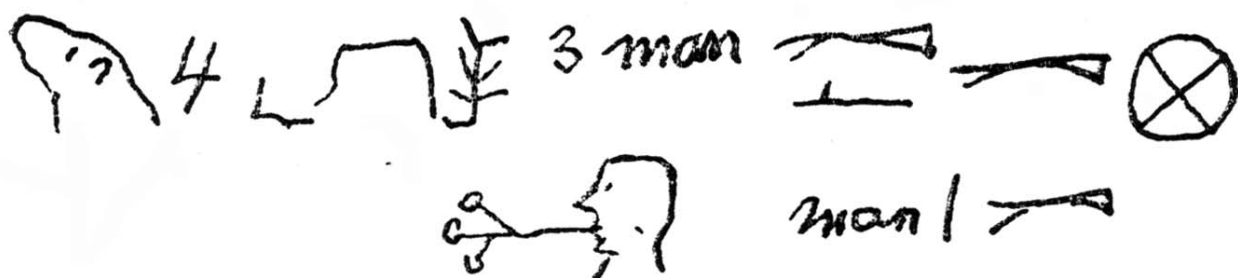
In the summer, Arikaree Indians and some Mandan were attacked by the Sioux near where Dickinson is now. A fierce battle they say.



1860

The following winter Four Bears established winter quarters in the same spot. During that winter a Frenchman by the name of Pierre Garou, called "Rock" by the Indians, had three sons killed by the Sioux on a buffalo hunt. A Mandan by the name of Tobacco was also killed.

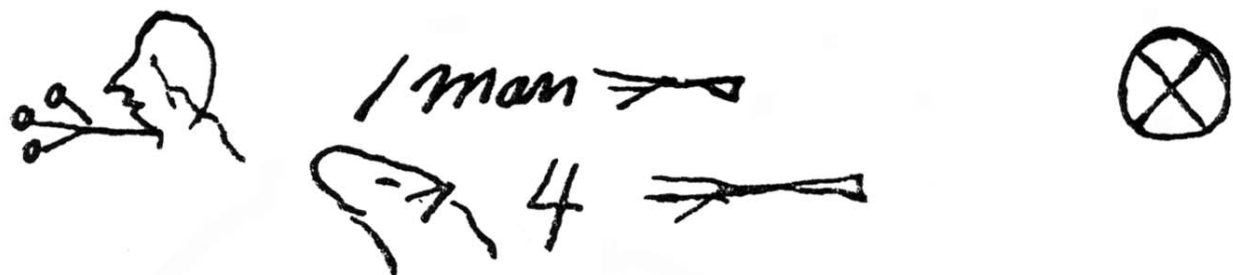
Following summer a Gros Ventre named Cherries-in-the-mouth went on the war-path and came back minus one warrior.



1861

Berries-around-neck made winter camp and killed a Sioux who was snow blind.

During the summer Four Bears was killed (the lad who brought in the table for our use was his grandson).



1862

Following winter Berries-around-neck established the winter camp. Three Sioux were killed.

The following summer four Sioux were killed. One was a chief and wore buffalo teeth about his neck as a necklace, so they called him Buffalo Teeth.



1863

The winter camp was established by Cherries-in-the-mouth in the timber where the round dance hall stands today this way from Elbowood. Up in Saddle butte they killed five Sioux.

The next summer as the Santee Indians were coming to Fort Berthold they got into a fight with the three tribes and a good many of the Santee were killed.



1864

A winter camp known as Looks-like-lodge was established for three successive winters. The first winter a Gros Ventre by the name of Picket was killed. No real chiefs appointed, hence no change in the camp.

1865

The second winter a man named Bob-tailed-bull went on a war party and killed two Sioux women. Right after the first winter camp the battle took place at Kildeer with the white soldiers.

In the summer of this second year old Wolf Chief and another man killed a Sioux one of whose feet was half gone.

1866

During the third camp there was a period of great starvation known as *Ma-a-ri-ti-ma-tä* because food was scarce.

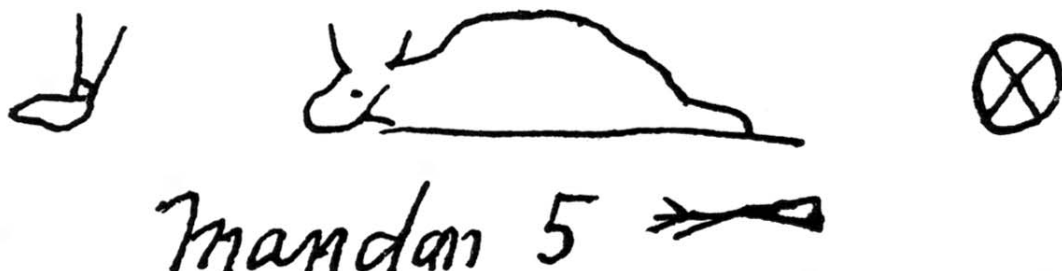
The following summer four white men came from Washington and held a council.



1867

The following winter a man named Slim Ankle, father of Wolf Chief, established winter quarters on a range of hills that looked like the hump of a buffalo.

That summer up in Mouse river country (Minot region) five Mandan were killed, one, Foolish Woman's uncle. (Eight years later Custer was killed.)



1868

The following winter antelope were plentiful.

That summer Foolish Woman was born in Fish-hook village.



1869

The following winter Wolf-sleeps-long was killed by a white man. This was my first winter. (That is, the year in which Foolish Woman was born).



1870

The second winter they camped at Sharp-pointed Cedar and a Mandan named His-horn-knocked-off was killed. That same

winter a band of Crow Indians, thirty of them, were going down to Sioux country. They climbed a butte, built a defense, and all thirty were killed.



145 The pictographs were copied from Foolish Woman's notebook, where they served him as a record of past events. The circle and cross is the symbol for the camp. After I had copied a few pages myself Foolish Woman made the rest of the copies for me. The tracings for reproduction were made by Louise Taylor, Vassar, '36. The description of each picture was taken down from oral information, as well as the date for each camp described. Occasionally the dates do not seem accurate.

See Months and Seasons of the Arikara Calendar, by Melvin R. Gilmore. *Indian Notes* vol. 6 (1929): 246-250.

146 Just before my last visit to Fort Berthold in 1932, the suit was decided in favor of the Indians and the government made a large payment in full compensation.